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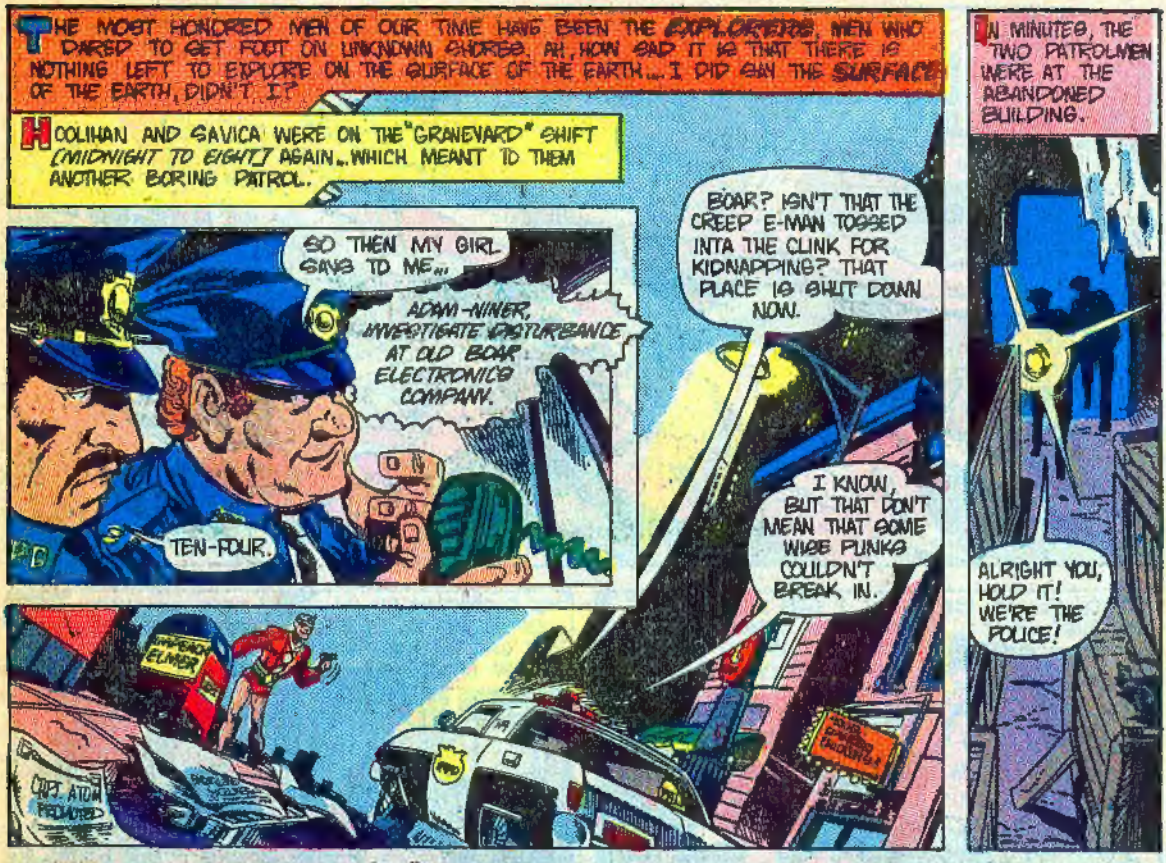
THE MOST HONORED MEN OF OUR TIME HAVE BEEN THE EXPLORERS, MEN WHO DARED TO GET FOOT ON UNKNOWN SHORES. AH, HOW SAD IT IS THAT THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO EXPLORE ON THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH... I DID SAY THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH, DIDN'T I?
HOLIHAN AND SAVICA WERE ON THE "GRAVEYARD" SHIFT (MIDNIGHT TO EIGHT) AGAIN... WHICH MEANT TO THEM ANOTHER BORING PATROL.
SO THEN MY GIRL SAYS TO ME...
ADAM-NINER, INVESTIGATE DISTURBANCE AT OLD BOAR ELECTRONICS COMPANY.
TEN-FOUR.
BOAR? ISN'T THAT THE CREEP E-MAN TOSSED INTA THE CLINK FOR KIDNAPPING? THAT PLACE IS SHUT DOWN NOW.
I KNOW, BUT THAT DON'T MEAN THAT SOME WISE PUNKS COULDN'T BREAK IN.
CAPT. ATOM PROMOTED
IN MINUTES, THE TWO PATROLMEN WERE AT THE ABANDONED BUILDING.
ALRIGHT YOU, HOLD IT! WE'RE THE POLICE!

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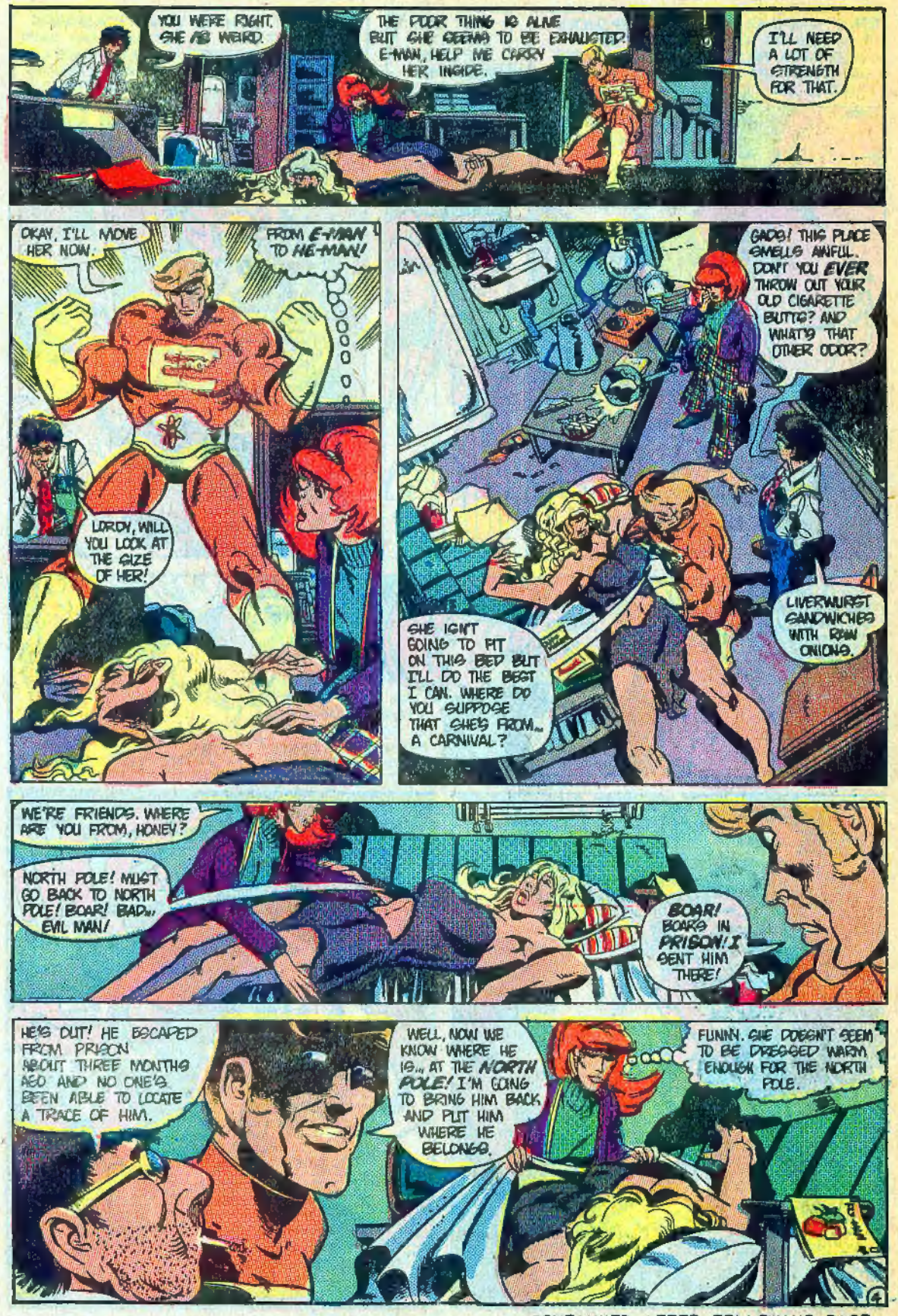
A MrBC Scan!

BLAM!
LOOK OUT!
HALT OR WE'LL SHOOT!
KRASH!!
DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU JUST SAW?
ALL I SAW WERE A COUPLE OF PUNKS. I DIDN'T SEE NO EIGHT-FOOT BROAD DRESSED LIKE SHEENA OF THE JUNGLE.
NYPD
BUT I DISCHARGED MY WEAPON. WHO AM I GONNA SAY WAS THE PERPETRATOR OF THIS CRIME?
THERE ARE SOME AWFULLY BIG RATS AROUND HERE.
AND SPEAKING OF "RATS," AT THE OFFICE OF MIKE MALIGER, PRIVATE EYE, E-MAN IS BEING TAUGHT ABOUT THE VICE OF GAMBLING.
NOW, THE ACE IS THE HIGHEST CARD IN THE DECK, EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONE... RIGHT?
UH-OH, WE'RE IN TROUBLE! HERE COMES YOUR GIRLFRIEND NOVA.
IN
MIKE - CAN YOU HELP ME? -P. SCRATCH
WESTERN UNION
MIKE - NEED YOUR HELP -- ARTHER
MISTER M... MALIGER - REQUEST YOUR AID - MARLONE
MIKE - CAN YOU HELP ME, BABY? --HAMMER
2

THE ENERGYMAN FROM THE STARS QUICKLY CHANGES HIS FORM IN THE WAY THAT A CHILD HIDES FROM HIS MOTHER WHEN SHE HAS CAUGHT HIM WITH HIS HAND IN THE COOKIE JAR.
IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR WORKING WITH YOU ON THIS CASE, MAUSER SAN. I MUST RUN HOME AND TELL NUMBER ONE SON ABOUT IT.
JUST ONE MOMENT, "MR. CHAN," THERE'S AN ACE OF SPADES STICKING OUT OF YOUR POCKET.
HE DOESN'T KNOW ANY BETTER, BUT YOU SHOULD BE ARRESTED FOR TRYING TO CORRUPT A MINOR!
HE'S THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD. THAT'S HARDLY A MINOR. OW! YOU STILL CARRYING THOSE BATTERIES?
WHAK!
TAKE IT EASY, NOVA. MIKE DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM.
THIS PLACE IS A DEN OF CORRUPTION. ALL SORTS OF WEIRD PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS WALKING IN HERE!
MAUSER!
KRASSH!


YOU WERE RIGHT. SHE IS WEIRD.
THE POOR THING IS ALIVE BUT SHE SEEMS TO BE EXHAUSTED! E-MAN, HELP ME CARRY HER INSIDE.
I'LL NEED A LOT OF STRENGTH FOR THAT.
OKAY, I'LL MOVE HER NOW.
FROM E-MAN TO HE-MAN!
LORDY, WILL YOU LOOK AT THE SIZE OF HER!
GADS! THIS PLACE SMELLS AWFUL. DON'T YOU EVER THROW OUT YOUR OLD CIGARETTE BUTTS? AND WHAT'S THAT OTHER ODOR?
LIVERWURST SANDWICHES WITH RAW ONIONS.
SHE ISN'T GOING TO FIT ON THIS BED BUT I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN. WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT SHE'S FROM... A CARNIVAL?
WE'RE FRIENDS. WHERE ARE YOU FROM, HONEY?
NORTH POLE! MUST GO BACK TO NORTH POLE! BOAR! BAD... EVIL MAN!
BOAR! BOARS IN PRISON! I SENT HIM THERE!
HE'S OUT! HE ESCAPED FROM PRISON ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO AND NO ONE'S BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE A TRACE OF HIM.
WELL, NOW WE KNOW WHERE HE IS... AT THE NORTH POLE! I'M GOING TO BRING HIM BACK AND PUT HIM WHERE HE BELONGS.
FUNNY. SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DRESSED WARM ENOUGH FOR THE NORTH POLE.

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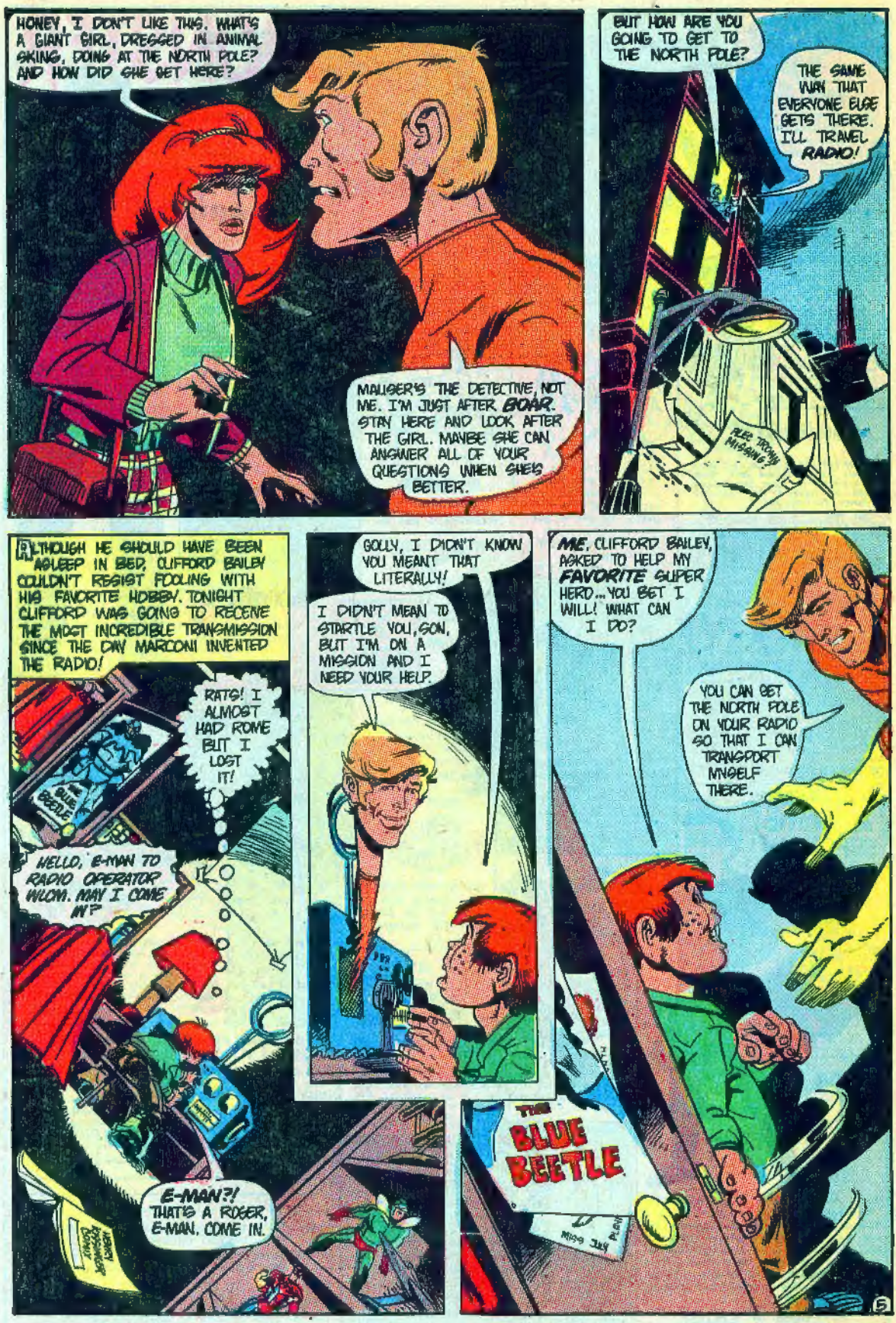
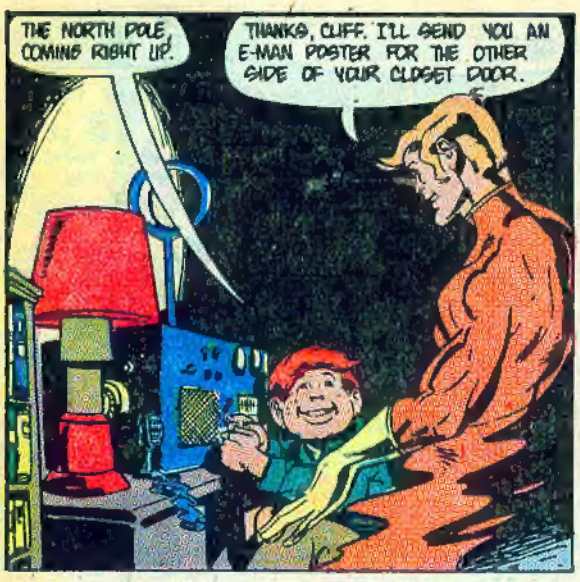
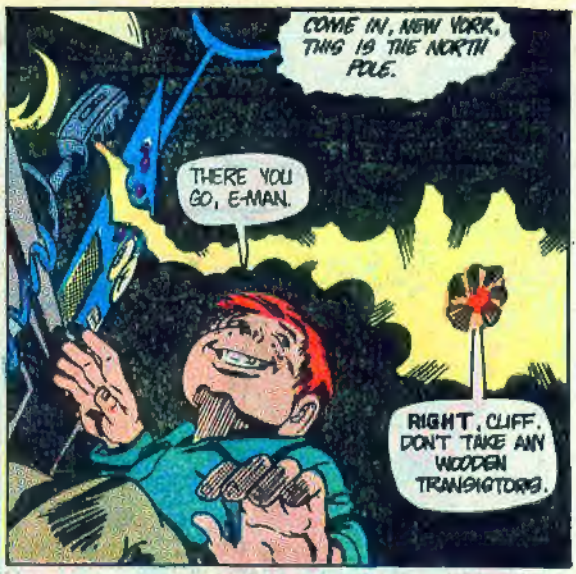
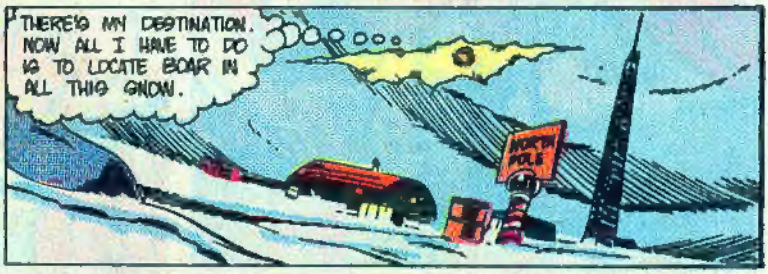
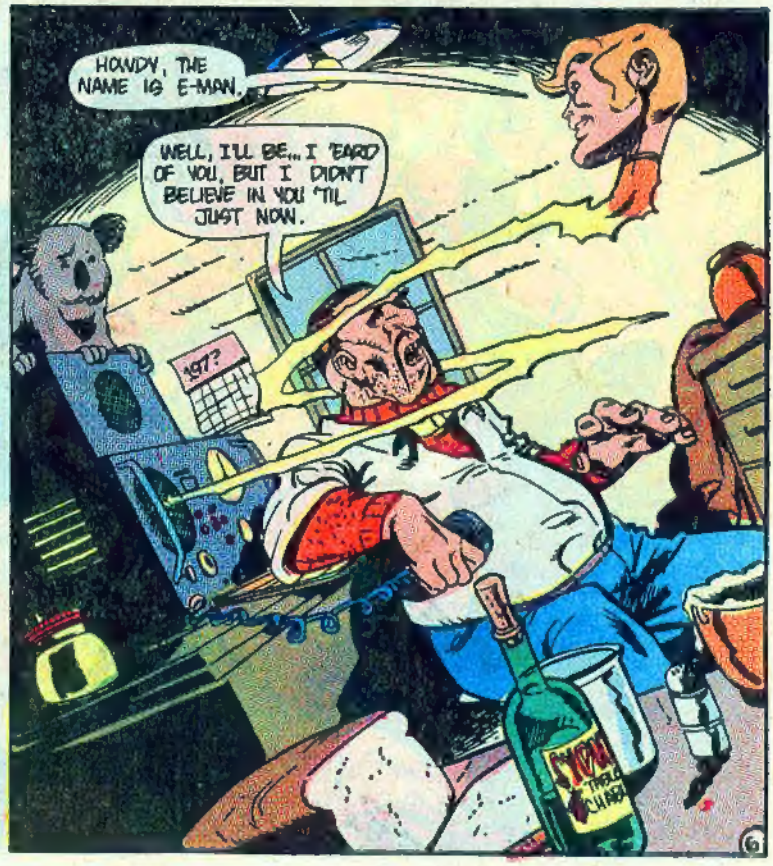

HONEY, I DON'T LIKE THIS. WHAT'S A GIANT GIRL, DRESSED IN ANIMAL SKINS, DOING AT THE NORTH POLE? AND HOW DID SHE GET HERE?
MALISER'S THE DETECTIVE, NOT ME. I'M JUST AFTER BOAR. STAY HERE AND LOOK AFTER THE GIRL. MAYBE SHE CAN ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS WHEN SHE'S BETTER.
BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET TO THE NORTH POLE?
THE SAME WAY THAT EVERYONE ELSE GETS THERE. I'LL TRAVEL RADIO!
REC. TROOPS MISSING!
ALTHOUGH HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ASLEEP IN BED, CLIFFORD BAILEY COULDN'T RESIST FOOLING WITH HIS FAVORITE HOBBY. TONIGHT CLIFFORD WAS GOING TO RECEIVE THE MOST INCREDIBLE TRANSMISSION SINCE THE DAY MARCONI INVENTED THE RADIO!
RATS! I ALMOST HAD ROME BUT I LOST IT!
HELLO, E-MAN TO RADIO OPERATOR WLOM. MAY I COME IN?
GOLLY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU MEANT THAT LITERALLY!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU, SON, BUT I'M ON A MISSION AND I NEED YOUR HELP.
ME, CLIFFORD BAILEY, ASKED TO HELP MY FAVORITE SUPER HERO... YOU BET I WILL! WHAT CAN I DO?
YOU CAN GET THE NORTH POLE ON YOUR RADIO SO THAT I CAN TRANSPORT MYSELF THERE.
E-MAN?! THAT'S A ROGER, E-MAN. COME IN.
THE BLUE BEETLE
5

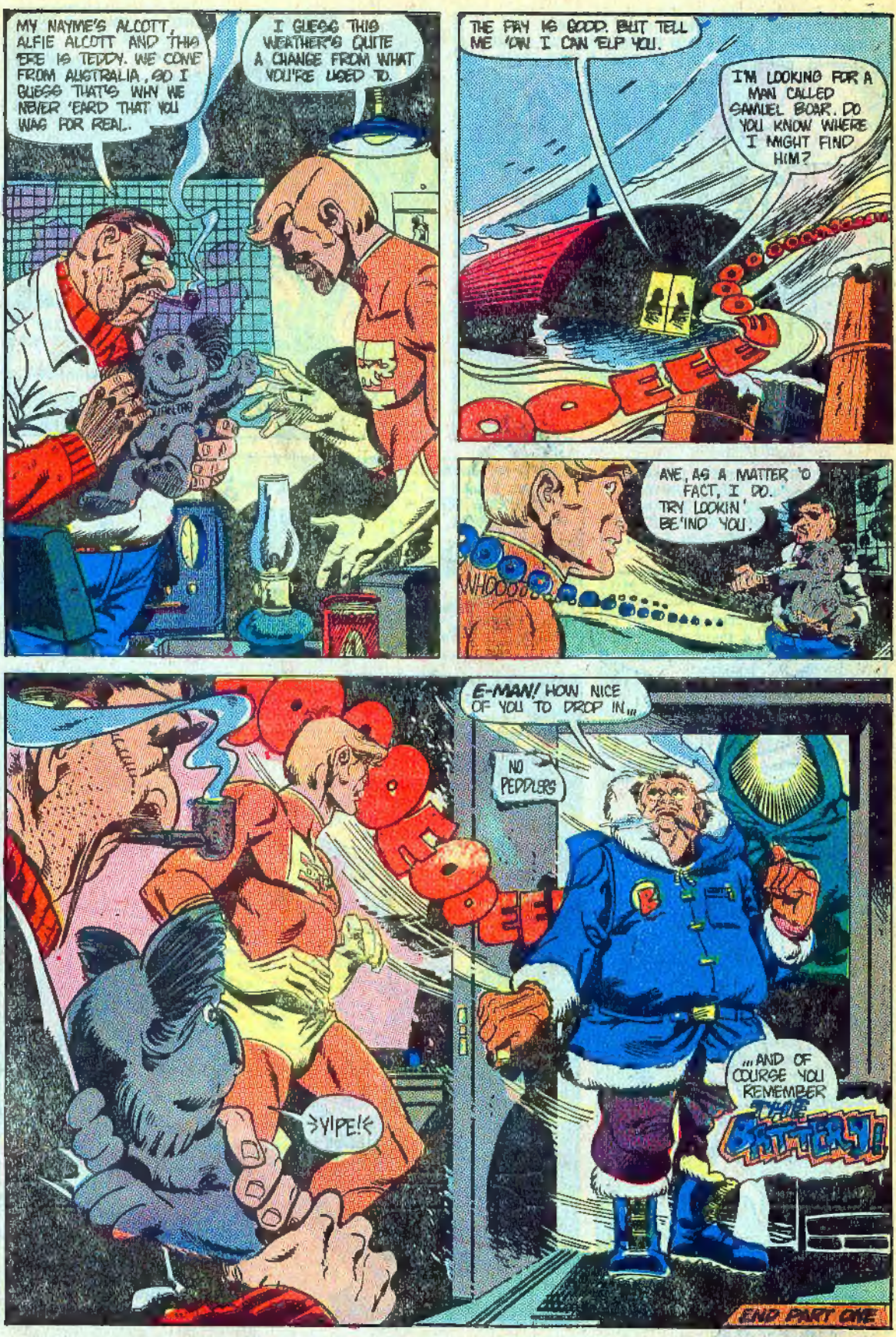




TRANSPORTING HIMSELF ON SHORT WAVE CARRIER WAVES, INSTEAD OF HIS USUAL METHOD THROUGH TELEPHONE WIRES, PROVED TO BE A GREATER HAZARD THAN E-MAN HAD EXPECTED.

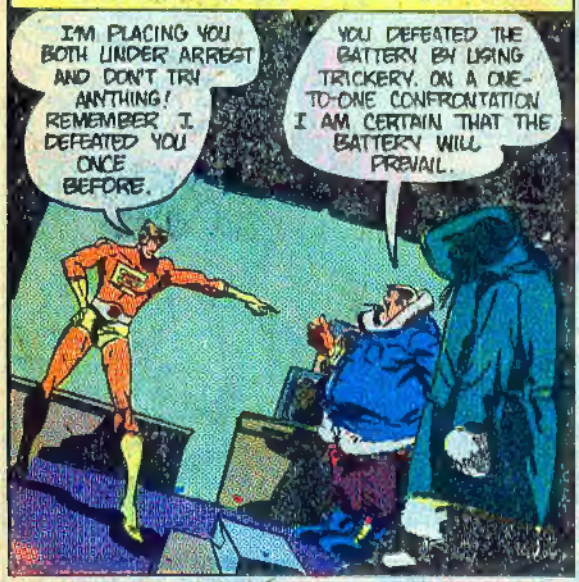


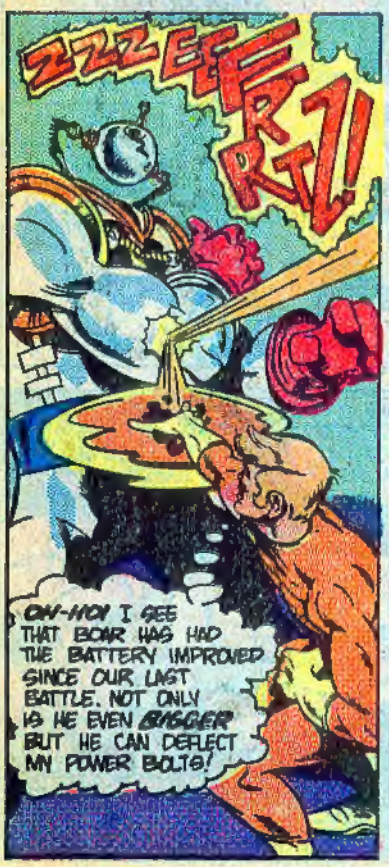


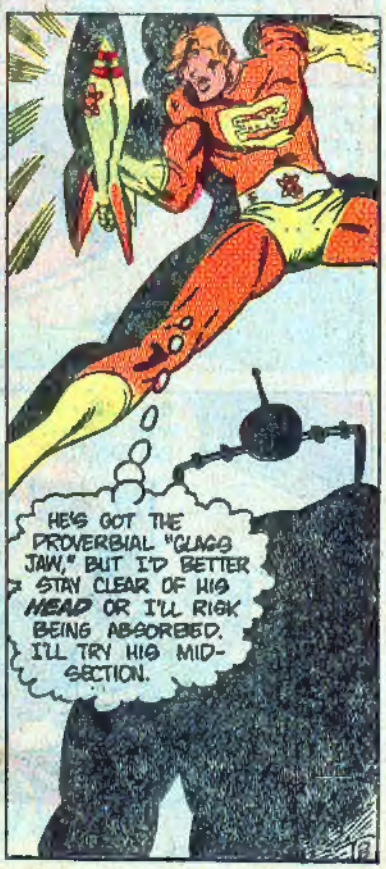

MY NAYME'S ALCOTT, ALFIE ALCOTT AND THIS 'ERE IS TEDDY. WE COME FROM AUSTRALIA, SO I GUESS THAT'S WHY WE NEVER 'EARD THAT YOU WAS FOR REAL.
I GUESS THIS WEATHER'S QUITE A CHANGE FROM WHAT YOU'RE USED TO.
THE PAY IS GOOD. BUT TELL ME 'OW I CAN 'ELP YOU.
I'M LOOKING FOR A MAN CALLED SAMUEL BOAR. DO YOU KNOW WHERE I MIGHT FIND HIM?
OOEEE
AYE, AS A MATTER 'O FACT, I DO. TRY LOOKIN' BE'IND YOU.
WHOOOT
E-MAN! HOW NICE OF YOU TO DROP IN...
NO PEDDLERS
...AND OF COURSE YOU REMEMBER THE BATTERY!
YIPE!
END PART ONE

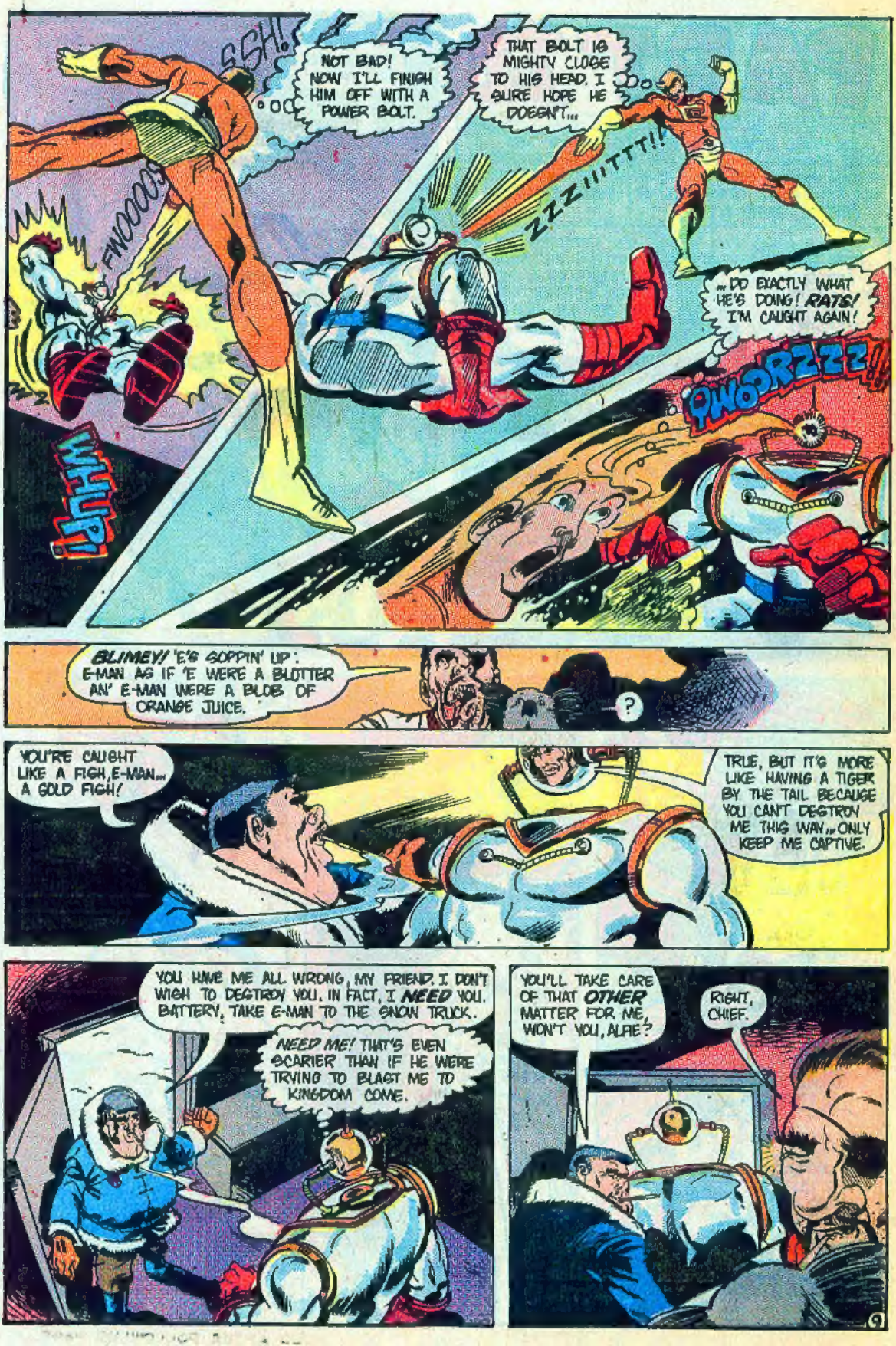
PART II

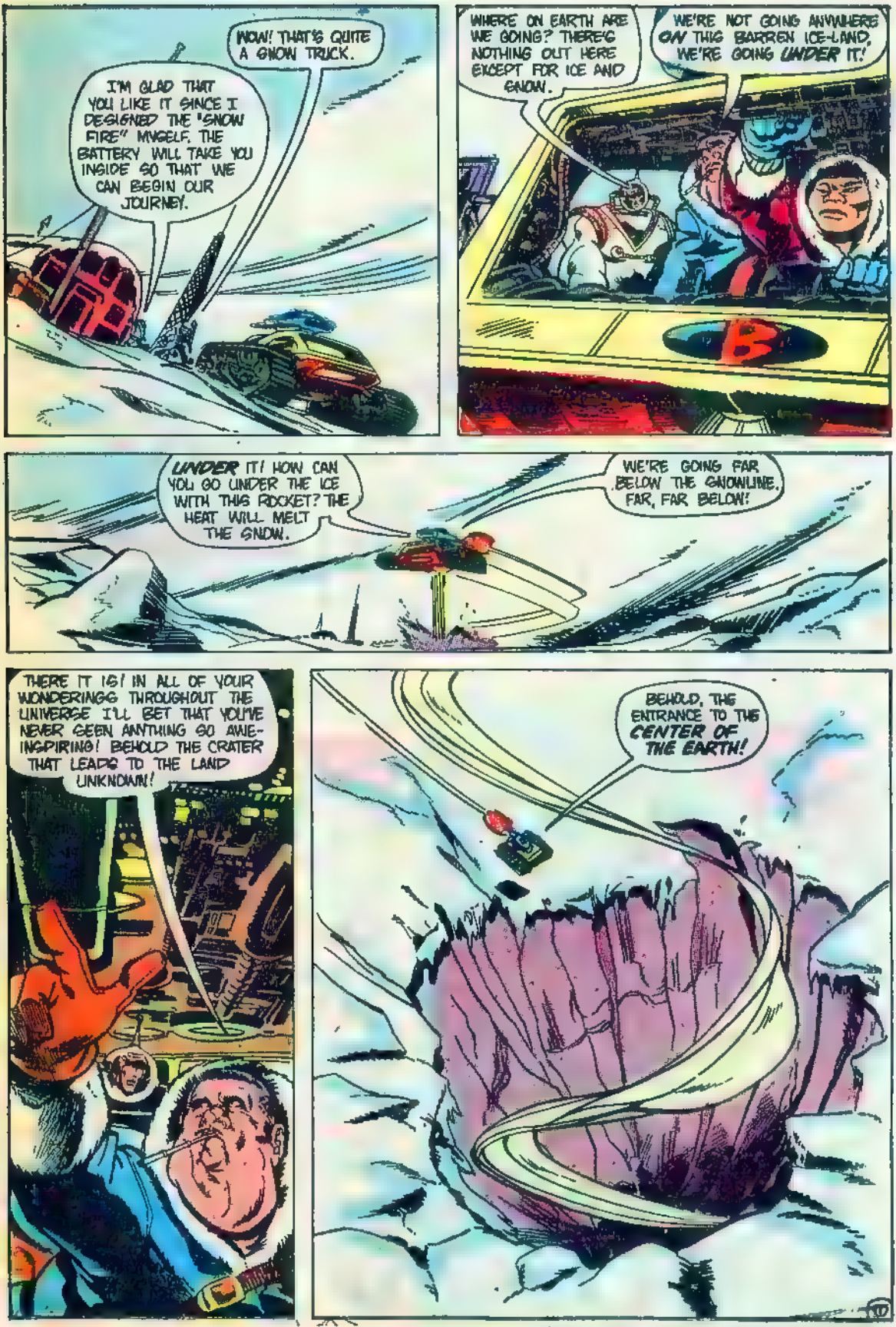
CONFRONTED BY THE TWO FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE--**SAMUEL BOAR** (THE WORLD'S RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL MAN) AND THE **BATTERY** (BOAR'S POWER-HUNGRY ROBOT)--E-MAN (THE DEDICATED BUT NOT-TOO-BRIGHT CRIME FIGHTER) ISSUED A WARNING BEFORE TAKING ACTION.


I'M PLACING YOU BOTH UNDER ARREST AND DON'T TRY ANYTHING! REMEMBER I DEFEATED YOU ONCE BEFORE.
YOU DEFEATED THE BATTERY BY USING TRICKERY. ON A ONE-TO-ONE CONFRONTATION I AM CERTAIN THAT THE BATTERY WILL PREVAIL.


ZZZEEERRT!
OH-HOY I SEE THAT BOAR HAS HAD THE BATTERY IMPROVED SINCE OUR LAST BATTLE. NOT ONLY IS HE EVEN BIGGER BUT HE CAN DEFLECT MY POWER BOLTS!




SSH!
NOT BAD! NOW I'LL FINISH HIM OFF WITH A POWER BOLT.
THAT BOLT IS MIGHTY CLOSE TO HIS HEAD. I SURE HOPE HE DOESN'T...
ZZZ!!!TTT!!
FNOOOOO
WHAP!
...DO EXACTLY WHAT HE'S DOING! RATS! I'M CAUGHT AGAIN!
PWOORZZZ!!
BLIMEY! 'E'S GOPPIN' UP: E-MAN AS IF 'E WERE A BLOTTER AN' E-MAN WERE A BLOB OF ORANGE JUICE.
?
YOU'RE CAUGHT LIKE A FISH, E-MAN... A GOLD FISH!
TRUE, BUT IT'S MORE LIKE HAVING A TIGER BY THE TAIL BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DESTROY ME THIS WAY... ONLY KEEP ME CAPTIVE.
YOU HAVE ME ALL WRONG, MY FRIEND. I DON'T WISH TO DESTROY YOU. IN FACT, I NEED YOU. BATTERY, TAKE E-MAN TO THE SNOW TRUCK.
NEED ME! THAT'S EVEN SCARIER THAN IF HE WERE TRYING TO BLAST ME TO KINGDOM COME.
YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT OTHER MATTER FOR ME, WON'T YOU, ALFIE?
RIGHT, CHIEF.
9


WOW! THAT'S QUITE A SNOW TRUCK.
I'M GLAD THAT YOU LIKE IT SINCE I DESIGNED THE "SNOW FIRE" MYSELF. THE BATTERY WILL TAKE YOU INSIDE SO THAT WE CAN BEGIN OUR JOURNEY.
WHERE ON EARTH ARE WE GOING? THERE'S NOTHING OUT HERE EXCEPT FOR ICE AND SNOW.
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE ON THIS BARREN ICE-LAND. WE'RE GOING UNDER IT!
UNDER IT! HOW CAN YOU GO UNDER THE ICE WITH THIS ROCKET? THE HEAT WILL MELT THE SNOW.
WE'RE GOING FAR BELOW THE SNOWLINE. FAR, FAR BELOW!
THERE IT IS! IN ALL OF YOUR WONDERINGS THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE I'LL BET THAT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO AWE-INSPIRING! BEHOLD THE CRATER THAT LEADS TO THE LAND UNKNOWN!
BEHOLD, THE ENTRANCE TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH!

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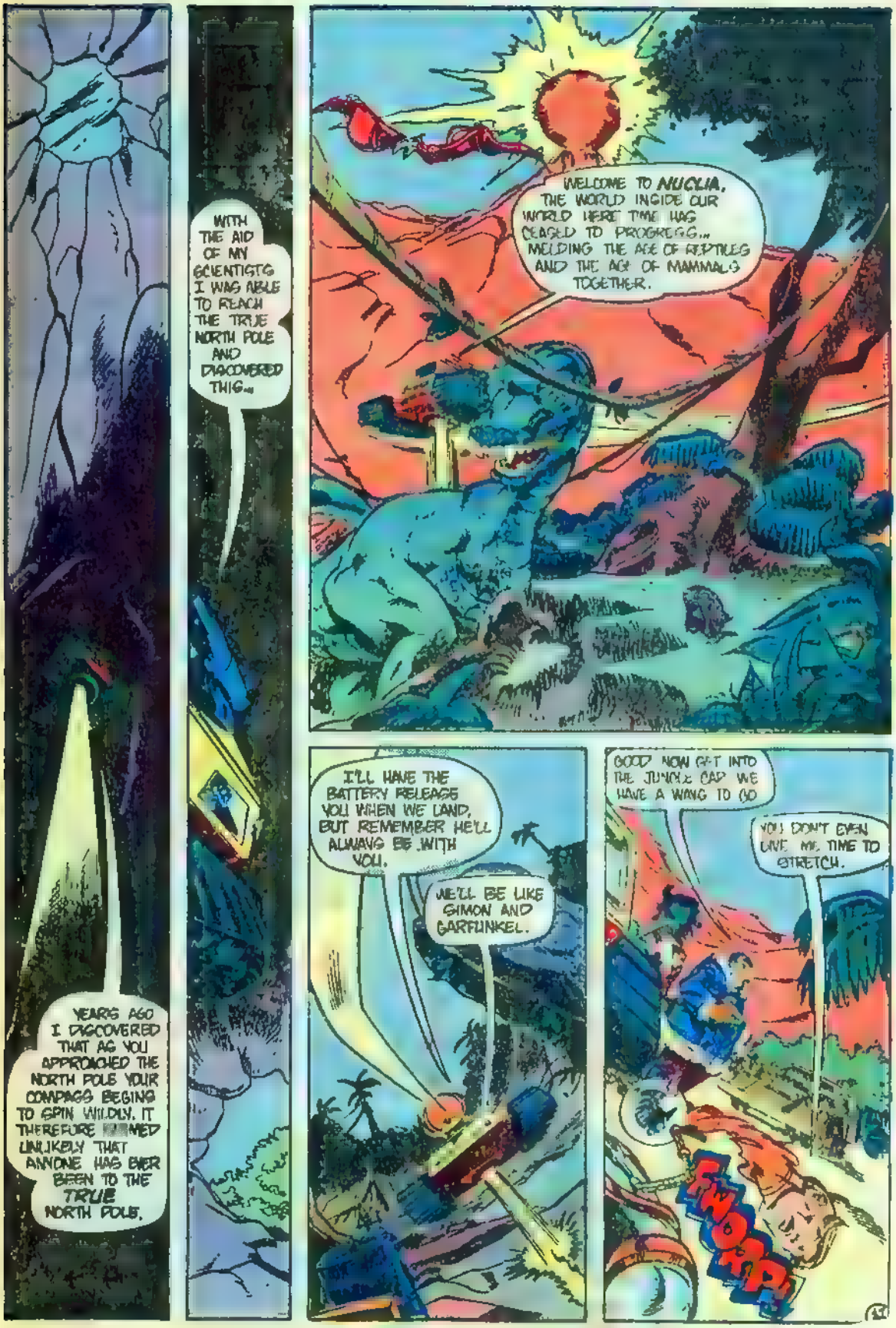
YEARS AGO I DISCOVERED THAT AS YOU APPROACHED THE NORTH POLE YOUR COMPASS BEGINS TO SPIN WILDLY. IT THEREFORE SEEMED UNLIKELY THAT ANYONE HAS EVER BEEN TO THE TRUE NORTH POLE.
WITH THE AID OF MY SCIENTISTS I WAS ABLE TO REACH THE TRUE NORTH POLE AND DISCOVERED THIS...
WELCOME TO NUCLIA, THE WORLD INSIDE OUR WORLD WHERE TIME HAS CEASED TO PROGRESS... MELDING THE AGE OF REPTILES AND THE AGE OF MAMMALS TOGETHER.
I'LL HAVE THE BATTERY RELEASE YOU WHEN WE LAND, BUT REMEMBER HE'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.
WE'LL BE LIKE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL.
GOOD NOW GET INTO THE JUNK CAR WE HAVE A WAY TO GO
YOU DON'T EVEN GIVE ME TIME TO STRETCH.
FNOMP!

OUR DESTINATION IS JUST OVER THAT RIDGE
THAT'S A STRANGE OPTICAL ILLUSION IT APPEARS AS IF THAT SUN IS ACTUALLY RESTING ON THAT MOUNTAIN
THE WEIRD LITTLE CAR AMBLES ALONG THROUGH THE LUSH SUBTERRANEAN JUNGLE, PUSHING ASIDE FOLIAGE AS IF IT WERE MADE OF PAPER
THOSE ARE THE HOMES OF THE DENIZENS OF NUCLIA
GREETINGS KOTULKA I HAVE RETURNED AS I SAID I WOULD WITH MORE GIFTS FOR YOUR PEOPLE
WHERE IS DAUGHTER?
YOUR DAUGHTER RAN AWAY FROM US WHEN WE REACHED THE SURFACE WORLD. SHE IS BEING SOUGHT AND WILL SOON BE RECAPTURED.
THE GIANT GIRL!
I WILL BE BRINGING MORE MACHINES FROM THE OUTER WORLD DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THEM OR YOUR DAUGHTER WILL BE KILLED!
SO, THAT'S YOUR GAME!

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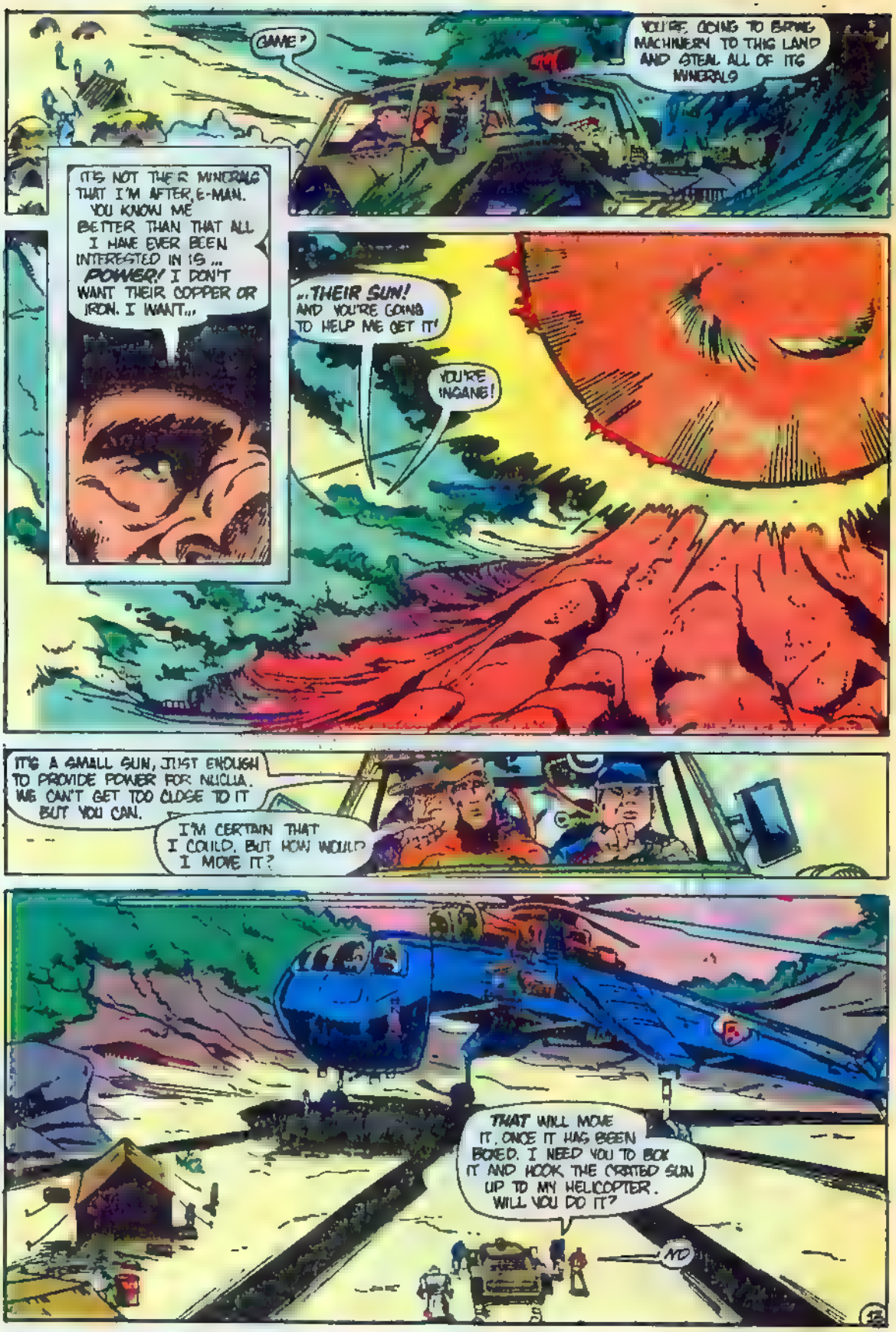
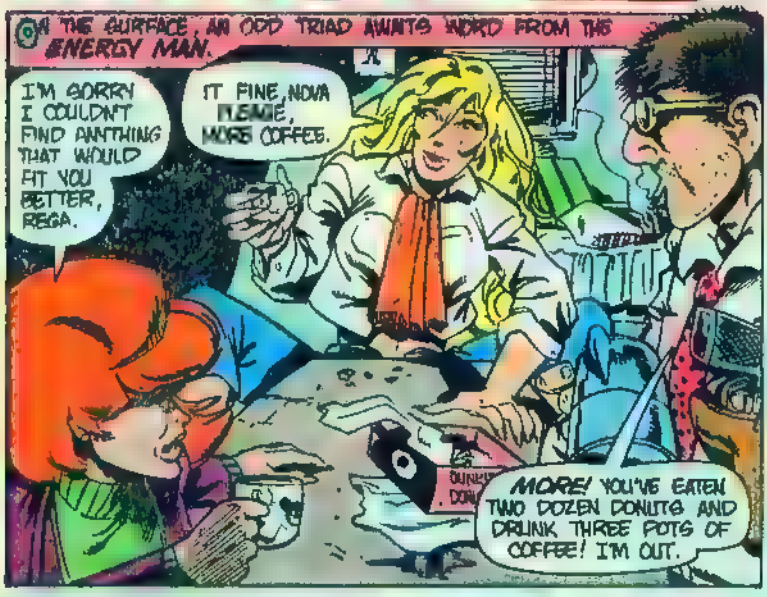
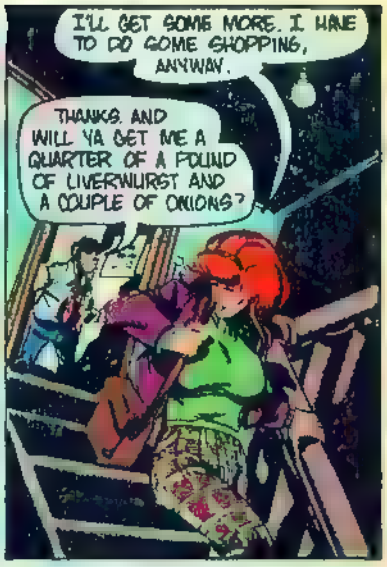

GAME?
YOU'RE GOING TO BRING MACHINERY TO THIS LAND AND STEAL ALL OF ITS MINERALS!
IT'S NOT THEIR MINERALS THAT I'M AFTER, E-MAN. YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT. ALL I HAVE EVER BEEN INTERESTED IN IS... POWER! I DON'T WANT THEIR COPPER OR IRON. I WANT...
...THEIR SUN! AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME GET IT!
YOU'RE INSANE!
IT'S A SMALL SUN, JUST ENOUGH TO PROVIDE POWER FOR NUCLIA. WE CAN'T GET TOO CLOSE TO IT BUT YOU CAN.
I'M CERTAIN THAT I COULD. BUT HOW WOULD I MOVE IT?
THAT WILL MOVE IT, ONCE IT HAS BEEN BOXED. I NEED YOU TO BOX IT AND HOOK THE CRATED SUN UP TO MY HELICOPTER. WILL YOU DO IT?
NO

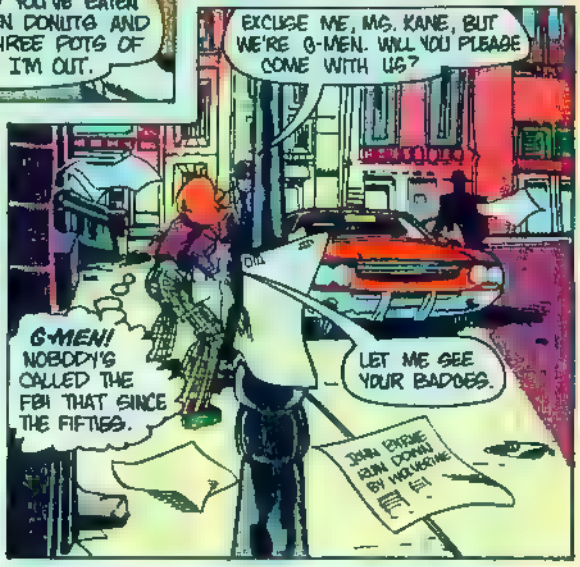
YOU WILL BE MORE COOPERATIVE WHEN ALFIE RETURNS. HE'S BRINGING...
DINOSAUR! DINOSAUR!
GARAARRR
GRRRRRRRRRRR
BATTERY! ABSORB THAT THING AND SCATTER ITS ATOMS.
NOW IS MY CHANCE.
YOU FOOL! YOU'VE ALLOWED E-MAN TO ESCAPE! FIND HIM!
WHAM!
CHOMP! CHOMP!
I'M FREE, BUT HOW THE HECK DO I GET OUT OF NUCLIA.
YUKKICH! I HATE THE TASTE OF GRAGG!
END PART TWO

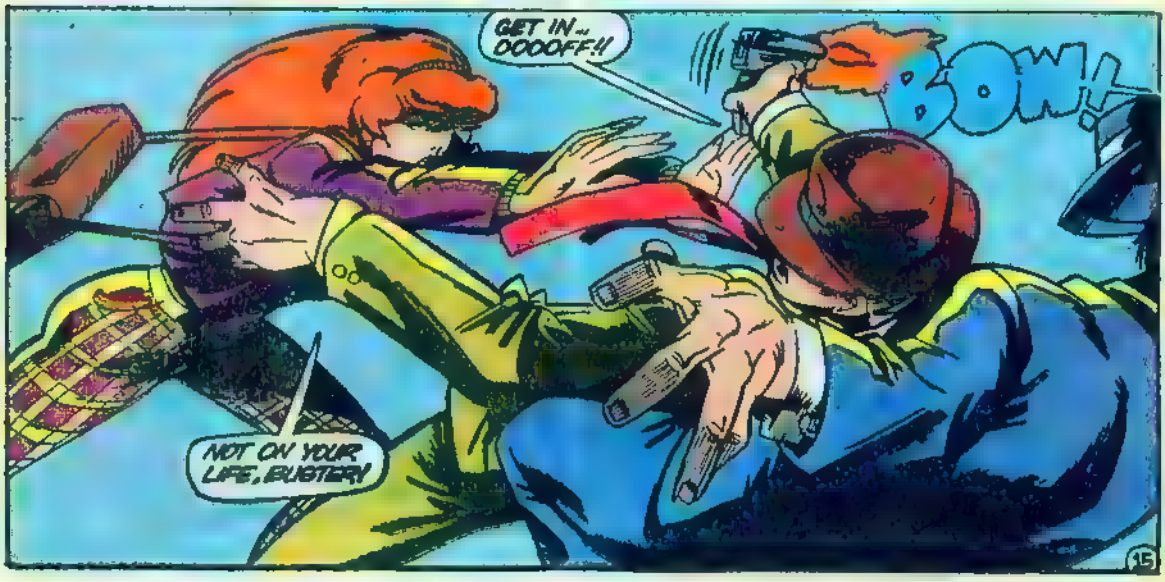
PART III


AT THE SURFACE, AN ODD TRIAD AWAITS WORD FROM THE ENERGY MAN.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING THAT WOULD FIT YOU BETTER, REGA.
IT FINE, NOVA HONEY, MORE COFFEE.
MORE! YOU'VE EATEN TWO DOZEN DONUTS AND DRUNK THREE POTS OF COFFEE! I'M OUT.


I'LL GET SOME MORE. I HAVE TO DO SOME SHOPPING, ANYWAY.
THANKS. AND WILL YA GET ME A QUARTER OF A POUND OF LIVERWURST AND A COUPLE OF ONIONS?

THAT'S HER. THAT'S NOVA KANE.


EXCUSE ME, MS. KANE, BUT WE'RE G-MEN. WILL YOU PLEASE COME WITH US?
G-MEN! NOBODY'S CALLED THE FBI THAT SINCE THE FIFTIES.
LET ME SEE YOUR BADGES.
JOHN BYRNE RUN DONNY WOLVERINE BY ME!


GET IN... OOOOFF!!
BOW!
NOT ON YOUR LIFE, BUSTER!

STOP!
DON'T SHOOT, YOU IDIOT! BOAR SAID THAT HE WANTED HER ALIVE!
WHEW! I'M HAPPY TO HEAR THAT!
BLAM
PEACEMAKER
PLEASE HELP ME! THOSE MEN ARE TRYING TO KIDNAP ME!
SORRY, LADY, I JUST WENT OFF DUTY!
FINK! NOW I KNOW WHY HIS CAB IS PAINTED YELLOW!
VRROOOMM!
MISTER! MISTER! I NEED YOUR HELP!
RIGHT YOU ARE, LITTLE LADY. ALFIE IS AT YOUR SERVICE.
THANK GOODNESS! AT LAST I'VE FOUND A BRAVE AND HONEST MAN!

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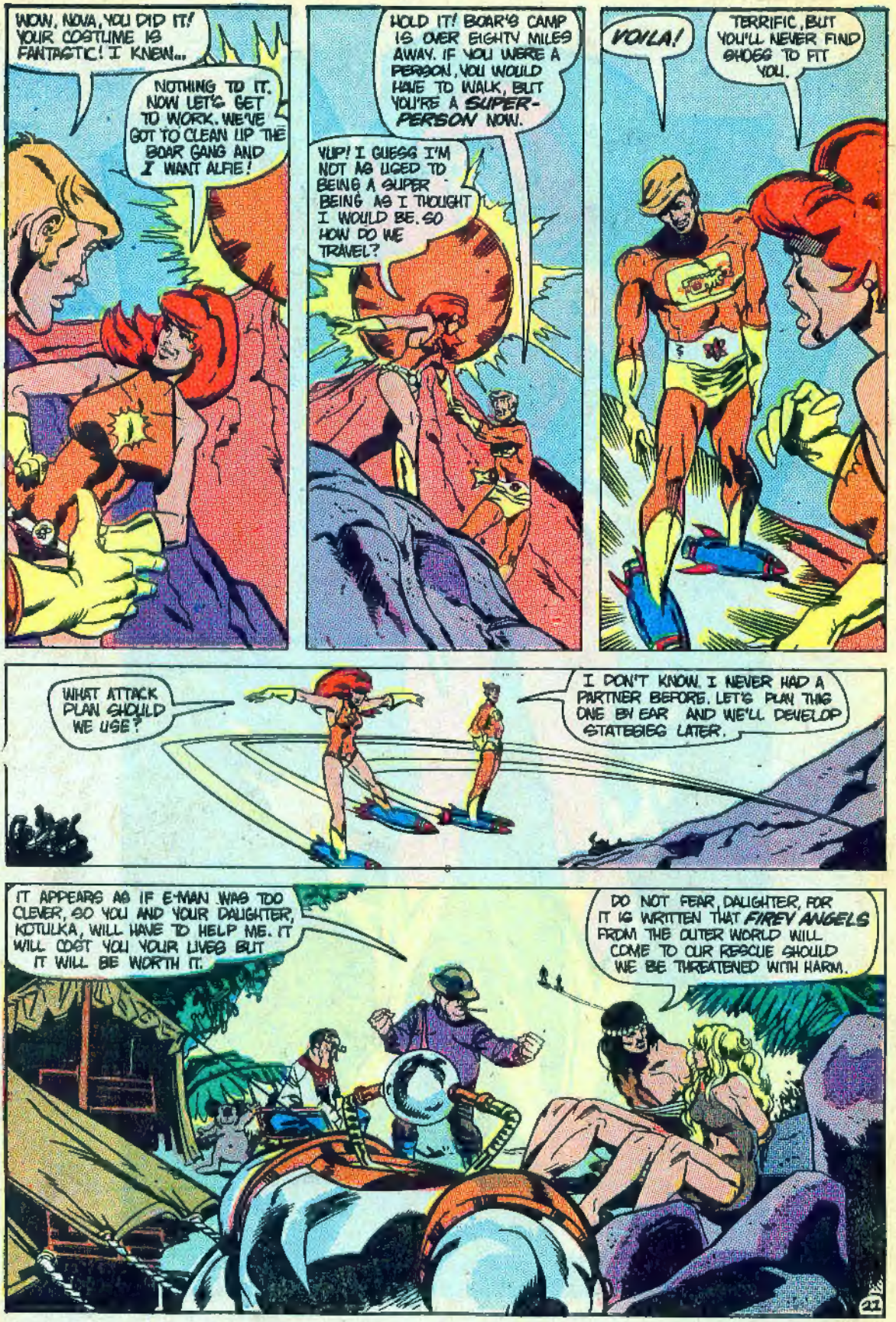
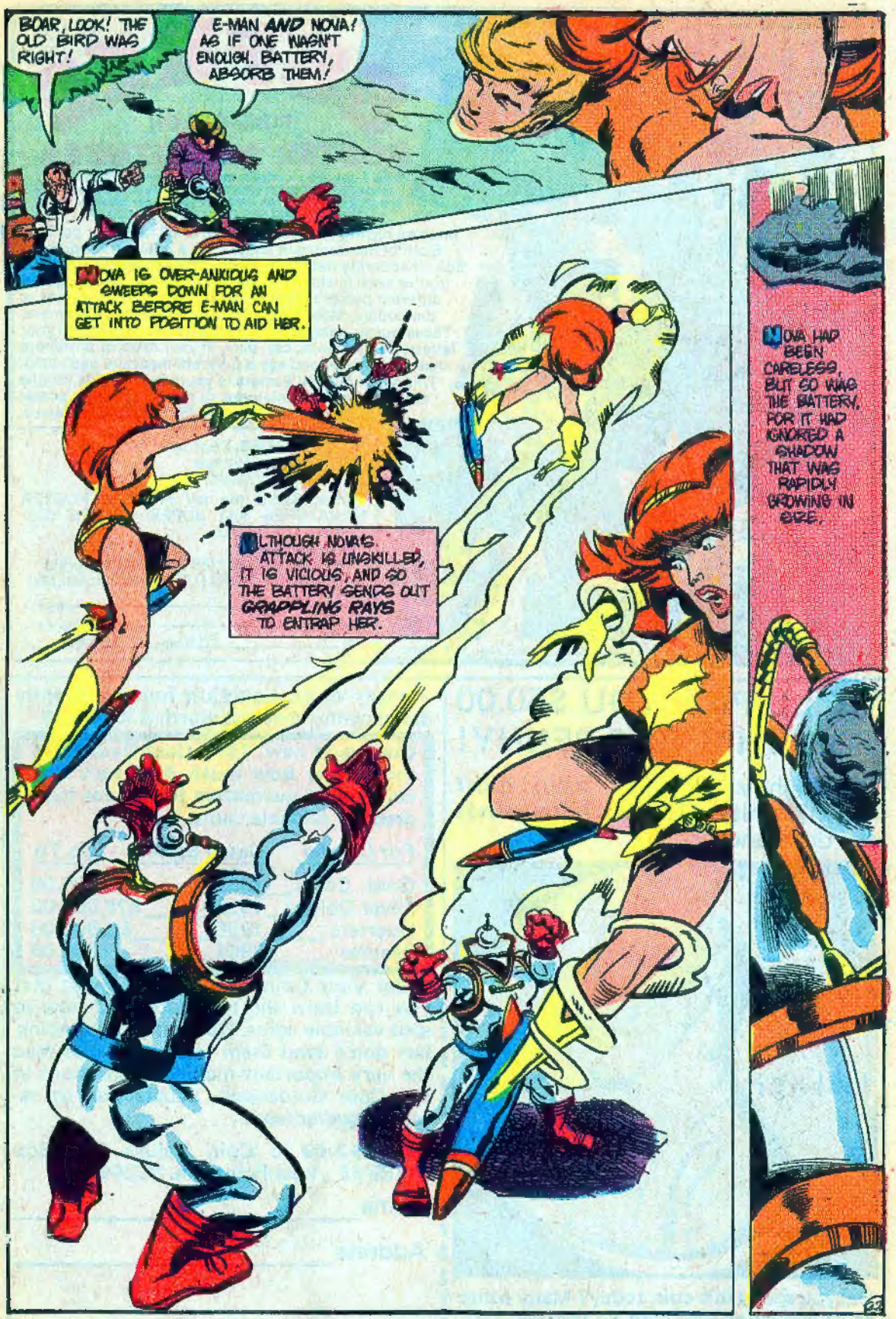
SOME TIME LATER...
I AM A LOUSY JUDGE OF CHARACTER!
HELLO, SAMMY. I'D RECOGNIZE YOUR OBESE PHYSIQUE ANYWHERE.
I TRUST THAT YOU ARE COMFORTABLE, MY DEAR. ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR TAN?
I HOPE THAT E-MAN COMES FOR YOU SOON BECAUSE THAT GUN IS DUE TO HAVE A MINOR ERUPTION WHICH WILL FRY YOU LIKE A HOT DOG.
WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?
THE GUN, THAT'S ALL. IF E-MAN AGREES TO ASSIST ME, THEN I'LL TURN YOU LOOSE.
IF NOT, THEN IT'S A NOVA-SCORCHER RIGHT?
NOVA-SCORCHER, A PLAY ON NOVA SCOTIA. VERY FUNNY.
I FAIL TO SEE THE HUMOR, FINKS!

IF E-MAN DOESN'T GET HERE MIGHTY QUICK, MY GOOSE WILL BE LITERALLY COOKED!
WHAT ARE YOU... SOME SORT OF PREHISTORIC SALAMANDER?
NO, I'M E-MAN!
TA-DAAA! I'VE COATED MY SKIN WITH A FLEXIBLE METAL TO PROTECT IT FROM THE SUN
OH, HONEY, DO YOU LOOK GOOD! HURRY UP AND UNTIE ME. I THINK THAT GUN IS GOING TO GO OFF EVEN BEFORE BOAR EXPECTED IT TO.
POOF!
NOT TO WORRY. I'LL CUT YOU LOOSE IN NO TIME AT ALL.
IT'S TOO LATE!.
BAVA-ROOOOOOM!
A GUN HAS NO HEAD...NOR LIMBS...BUT IT DOES HAVE A STOMACH...AND WHEN ITS STOMACH IS UPSET, IT BELCHES...
AND THEN RESTS.
NOVA?!
NOVA...?
18

MY POOR NOVA! OFTEN I'VE WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH YOU MEANT TO ME AND NOW I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SAY IT TO YOU. MY DEAR FRIEND. YOU'VE PAID FOR THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE.
I WILL REVENGE YOUR DEATH! BOAR WILL RUE THE DAY...
"RUE!" WHERE DID YOU PICK THAT WORD FROM?
NOVA! I HEAR YOUR VOICE BUT WHERE ARE YOU?
EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE. I'M ENERGY, JUST THE SAME FORM YOU WERE IN BEFORE YOU CAME TO THE EARTH.
ENERGY! YOU'RE SAVED, NOVA! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TO TRANSFORM YOURSELF TO MATTER THE WAY I DO.
I'VE SEEN YOU DO IT OFTEN ENOUGH, BUT CAN I DO IT, OR AM I DESTINED TO REMAIN THIS WAY FOREVER?
IT'S AS NATURAL AS BREATHING. DON'T THINK ABOUT IT, JUST DO IT! THAT'S IT!
I CAN FEEL IT HAPPENING! HERE COMES...

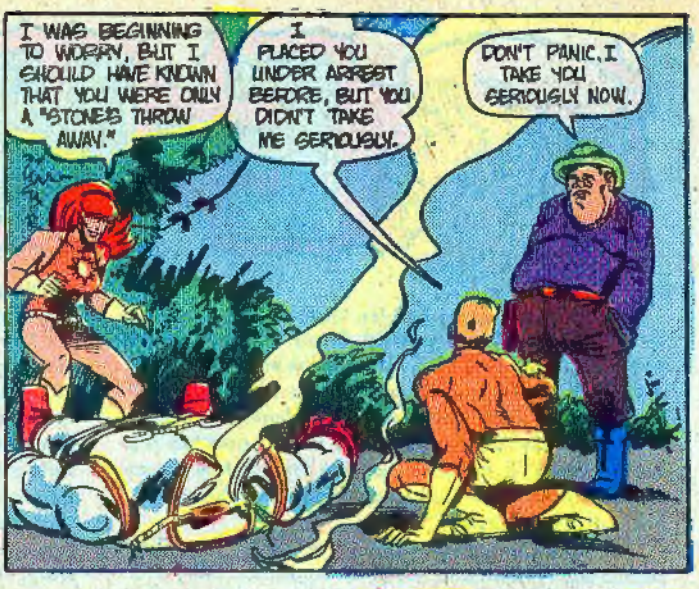
NOVA

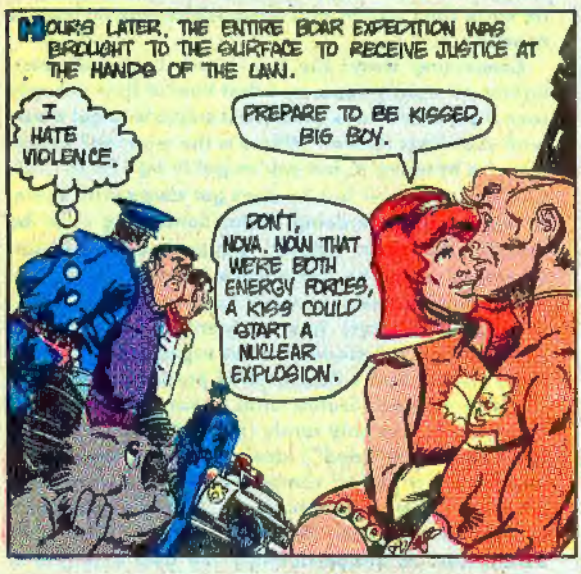

WOW, NOVA, YOU DID IT! YOUR COSTUME IS FANTASTIC! I KNEW..
NOTHING TO IT. NOW LET'S GET TO WORK. WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN UP THE BOAR GANG AND I WANT ALFIE!
HOLD IT! BOAR'S CAMP IS OVER EIGHTY MILES AWAY. IF YOU WERE A PERSON, YOU WOULD HAVE TO WALK, BUT YOU'RE A SUPER-PERSON NOW.
YUP! I GUESS I'M NOT AS UGED TO BEING A SUPER BEING AS I THOUGHT I WOULD BE. SO HOW DO WE TRAVEL?
VOILA!
TERRIFIC, BUT YOU'LL NEVER FIND SHOES TO FIT YOU.
WHAT ATTACK PLAN SHOULD WE USE?
I DON'T KNOW. I NEVER HAD A PARTNER BEFORE. LET'S PLAY THIS ONE BY EAR AND WE'LL DEVELOP STATEGIES LATER.
IT APPEARS AS IF E-MAN WAS TOO CLEVER, SO YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER, KOTULKA, WILL HAVE TO HELP ME. IT WILL COST YOU YOUR LIVES BUT IT WILL BE WORTH IT.
DO NOT FEAR, DAUGHTER, FOR IT IS WRITTEN THAT FIREV ANGELS FROM THE OUTER WORLD WILL COME TO OUR RESCUE SHOULD WE BE THREATENED WITH HARM.
27

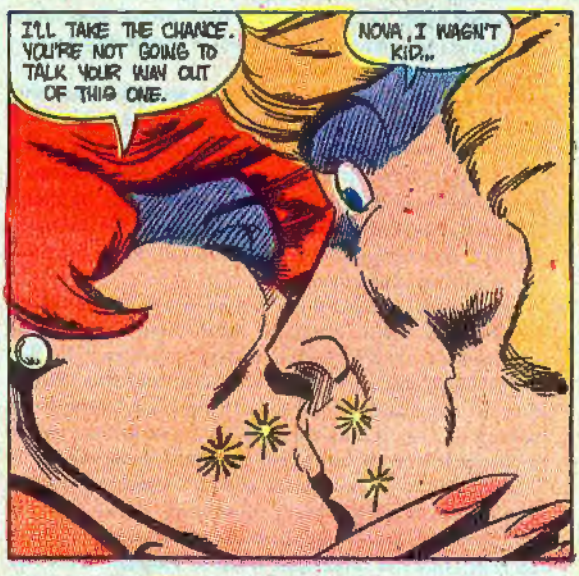

BOAR, LOOK! THE OLD BIRD WAS RIGHT!
E-MAN AND NOVA! AS IF ONE WASN'T ENOUGH. BATTERY, ABSORB THEM!
NOVA IS OVER-ANXIOUS AND SWEEPS DOWN FOR AN ATTACK BEFORE E-MAN CAN GET INTO POSITION TO AID HER.
ALTHOUGH NOVA'S ATTACK IS UNSKILLED, IT IS VICIOUS, AND SO THE BATTERY SENDS OUT GRAPPLING RAYS TO ENTRAP HER.
NOVA HAD BEEN CARELESS, BUT SO WAS THE BATTERY, FOR IT HAD IGNORED A SHADOW THAT WAS RAPIDLY GROWING IN SIZE.

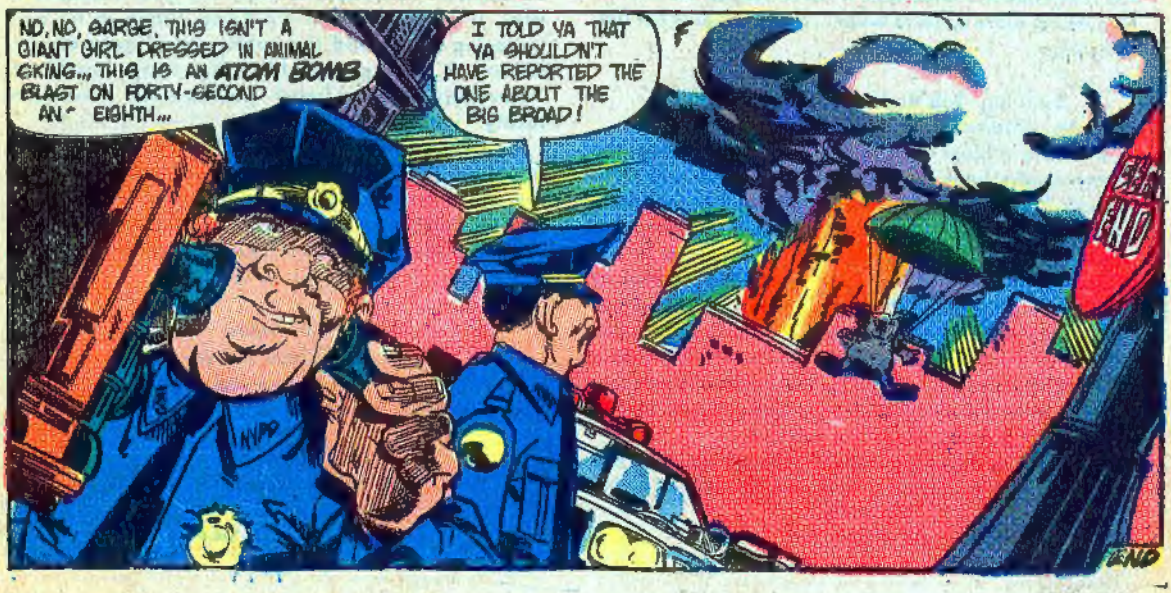
CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

KER-RASH


I WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY, BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT YOU WERE ONLY A "STONE'S THROW AWAY."
I PLACED YOU UNDER ARREST BEFORE, BUT YOU DIDN'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.
DON'T PANIC. I TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY NOW.


HOURS LATER, THE ENTIRE BOAR EXPEDITION WAS BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE TO RECEIVE JUSTICE AT THE HANDS OF THE LAW.
I HATE VIOLENCE.
PREPARE TO BE KISSED, BIG BOY.
DON'T, NOVA. NOW THAT WE'RE BOTH ENERGY FORCES, A KISS COULD START A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION.


I'LL TAKE THE CHANCE. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS ONE.
NOVA, I MAGN'T KID...


NO, NO, SARGE, THIS ISN'T A GIANT GIRL DRESSED IN ANIMAL SKINS... THIS IS AN ATOM BOMB BLAST ON FORTY-SECOND AND EIGHTH...
I TOLD YA THAT YA SHOULDN'T HAVE REPORTED THE ONE ABOUT THE BIG BROAD!
NYPD
THE END
THE END

Dear Mr. Wildman,

I usually enjoy super-heroics. Usually. But not with E-Man. With E-Man, I go wild. Crazy. It has to be the best new comic around ... I can't think of any comics to match its quality. In an age where comics are still shell-shocked from relevancy and naturalism, E-Man is deliberately glossy, discreetly funny, and terribly sophisticated. It reminds me of a Fred Astair dance routine. Innovative, funny, polished, and pleasant ... but, oh! what class!

The inter-dimensional story in #5 ("The City Swallower") reminded me of an Aquaman story of a few years back. Let me say that the concept was more enjoyable here done with tongue-in cheek and an uncanny sense of graphic beauty.

Nicola Cuti gave us a sci-fi yarn straight from the Golden Age of comics ... the hero, however, is his own marvelous property, and he meshed the two with smashing results. It's wonderful that you haven't clearly defined E-Man's powers, especially in these days when every hero has his restrictions. Watching E-Man is a constant source of amusement. Keep him doing anything and everything.

I guess this is as good a place as any to comment on Joe Staton's work. He's the most talented artist at Charlton, one of the top five artists in comics. (No, I'm not going to say who I think the other four are.) His E-Man art is his best ... the only thing I like better than looking at Alec is looking at Nova Kane. E-Man ought to catapult him to fame. He certainly deserves it!

Liberty Belle is a nice strip with a Golden Age flavor that makes it all the more appealing. Steve Ditko is brilliant, but I don't like Caroline's costume ... it looks too much like the television Wonder Woman. Give her something more basic to wear ... and then give her her own book.

E-xiting, Bob Rodi Oak Brook, Ill.

Dear Mr. Wildman,

E-Man is a blast of fresh air in a time when all too many comics have heroes with more problems than figures. The stories are always a pleasure to read from cover to cov- well, from start to finish anyway. Joe Staton (who I had the pleasure of meeting in the Charlton Room at the July Con) turned in his usual art in "The City Swallower", usual in the sense that it had his trademarks of freshness and originality. He has a knack for illustrating Joe Gill's subtle scripts without making them seem ridiculous. The union of these two talents grows more skillful with every issue; and E-Man is, as always, sheer fun to read.

There is one thing you could do, though, to make the book 100% better than it is. Give E-Man all 24 pages.

Sincerely,
Ed McCarthy
Greenlawn, N.Y.

Ed, Nick Cuti writes *E-Man*, not Joe Gill - Tronn

Dear People Responsible:

I like it. E-Man works, and quite well, as escapist reading of the purest kind. I think the subtle lampooning that's so integral a part of the plot and art is the reason it works. Both Cuti and Staton have quite a nice sense of the absurd, and combined with the blase style and characters, it wins. It's a refreshing change ... I'm not downing the humanization of superheroes that Marvel started over a decade ago, but there are times when the character studies overshadow the story. There's no danger of this in E-Man. We know little more than names and occupations, and no more is needed.

Concerning story: the five-issues I've read seem lightly yet tightly done, and that kind of flow is rarely seen. I wouldn't have believed it possible to get away with such lines (Brain: "Where is the weapon? Robot: "They're bringing it, but you've got to sign for it.") as Cuti lays down — but he does get away with them, simply by not overdoing them. Something must be said for the pace: pulpish fast and supremely unconcerned with the incredulous bystander reaction, which has become somewhat hackneyed. Alec Tronn (Mother of Mercy!) has no identity problems, no neuroses, yet the stories are not superficial. "The Entropy Twins" had a fine touch of pathos and drama.

Concerning art: Staton tends toward the cartoonish occasionally, but only rarely (the teddy bear creature in "City in the Sand") does this get annoying — usually it's a perfect complement to the story tone. After all, Eisner is cartoonish too. Staton's work has a gracefulness, quite fluid at times ("The City Swallower" is unquestionably the best example of this). It reminds me of Gil Kane, while in no way imitating Kane, and the subtle visual gags are excellent. I particularly, like the stray headlines: "Cleveland eaten by frogs!" put me away. "Sauron to testify" wasn't bad either.

You seem to have the right attitude — it feels like having a good time, rather than trying to make money. As long as we sense that, *E-Man* will work. As long as Cuti comes up with captions such as: "Cleverly disguised as a drainpipe, Alec observes a strange operation ..." you've got no worries.

Accolades,
J. Michael Reaves
North Hollywood, CA.

Please address letters to:

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Derby, Conn. 06418